

the voyage of the amnestied and provision of air tickets for the destitutes at government expense. At the Indian end, the matter was taken up with the Customs and Immigration authorities to handle the returning immigrants with sympathy and understanding. Indian Railways were requested to facilitate the amnestied to travel to their home towns from port of disembarkation.

(e) The matter has been taken up with concerned Governments in the Gulf to allow the return of the amnestied to the concerned country in a legitimate manner for employment.

Shortage of Power in Kerala

131. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of power in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal to the Union Government to increase the allocation of power to the State from the Central pool; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) The energy and peaking shortage in Kerala during October 1997 was 19 per cent and 18.9 per cent respectively and for the period April-October 1997 24.1 per cent and 26.4 per cent respectively. Low hydro generation by Kerala State Electricity Board due to delayed monsoon and less availability of water in the main hydel reservoirs in the State is the main reason for power shortage in the State. Hydel generation in the State during April-October, 1997 has been only 66.2 per cent of the programme and 86.1 per cent of the generation level achieved during the corresponding period of the previous year.

(c) and (d) Kerala has been allocated 414.5 MW power from the central generating stations in the Southern region. Further, Kerala's share in unallocated quota was increased from 30 per cent to 50 per cent w.e.f. 12.6.1997 and again from 50 per cent to 65 per cent w.e.f 1.7.1997 (during the acute shortage period). Subsequently, the allocation was

revised to 55 per cent with effect from 1.10.1997. The Minister of Electricity, Government of Kerala had detailed discussions with Minister of Power, Govt. of West Bengal. Based on the discussion it is proposed to transfer 100 MW power from NTPC stations in the Eastern Region to Kerala. The Central Electricity Authority is working out the technical and commercial arrangements for the supply of power in consultation with the two regional electricity boards (EREB and SREB) and Powergrid Corporation of India Ltd.

[Translation]

Pattern of Earthquakes

132. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted in regard to pattern of earthquakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether any time bound programme has been formulated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on seismic data provided by a number of agencies including India Meteorological Department, Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has published a Seismic Zoning Map of India. This map divides India into five (5) seismic zones as shown below:—

Zone V comprises of entire North-eastern India, parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, West Uttar Pradesh Hills, Rann of Kutch, North Bihar, North-East region and Andman & Nicobar Islands. Zone IV covers remaining parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh, Union Territory of Delhi, Northern parts of Uttar Pradesh, Sikkim, parts of West Bengal, Rajasthan and Gujarat and small portion of Maharashtra near West-Coast. Zone III comprises Kerala, Goa, remaining parts of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, parts of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Zone I and II cover the remaining parts of country.

Of these zones, Zone V is seismically most active while zone I is the least active.

(c) The Seismic zoning Map is periodically updated by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).